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Texas Treasurer/ex-officio Superintendent of Schools reports

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Report of the State Treasurer as ex-officio Superintendent of Schools, <1856--'57>

Report of the Treasurer and ex-officio Superintendent of Common Schools of the State
of Texas, <fiscal year ending August 31, 1859>, <fiscal year ending Aug. 31, 1861>

REPORT
OF THE
STATE TREASURER

AS EX-OFFICIO

Superintendent of Schools,

FOR THE YEARS 1856—'57.

PRINTED BY ORDER OF THE LEGISLATURE OF TEXAS.

AUSTIN:

PRINTED BY JOHN MARSHALL & CO., STATE PRINTERS.
1857.

REPORT.

TREASURER'S OFFICE, }
AUSTIN, December 1st, 1856. }

To His Excellency,

E. M PEASE,

Governor of the State :

SIR:—In compliance with the provisions of "An Act providing for the support of schools," approved August 29th, 1856, I herewith report to you the condition of the School Fund by an exhibit [marked Document A,] of the receipts and expenditures to and from, the two funds known as the "Special School Fund" and the "General School Fund," or fund derived from one-tenth taxes, for the fiscal year ending 31st October, 1856, under the Act of 31st of January, 1854, entitled "An Act to establish a system of schools."

By reference to the exhibit, it will be seen that in bringing down the balance of cash in the Treasury, both of said funds have been transferred to one fund known as the "School Fund," under the provisions of the 1st Section of the Act of 29th August, 1856.

As a part of this report, I transmit accompanying, the following additional documents, to-wit:

"Document "B" shows the payments made to the different counties out of the General School Fund, on account of the tuition due by patrons unable to pay the same.

"Document "C" shows the apportionment of the School Fund to the different counties, for the fiscal year ending October 31, 1856.

"Document "D" shows the balance of School Fund remaining in the Treasury, including the apportionment made for 1856, on the 31st October, 1856.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

I have the honor to be

Your obedient servant,

JAS. H. RAYMOND,
Treasurer and Ex-Officio S. of S.

DOC. "A."

SHOWING THE CONDITION OF THE SCHOOL FUNDS FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDING OCTOBER 31st, 1856.

Balance on hand Oct. 31st, 1855.				
GEN'L SCHOOL FUND.				
In U. S. 5 per cent. bonds, - -	53,000	00		
In specie, - -	75,668	19	128,668	19
SPECIAL SCHOOL FUND.				
In U. S. Bonds, -	2,000,000	00		
" Specie, -	114,529	71	2,114,529	71
				2,243,197 90
RECEIPTS				
TO GEN'L SCHOOL FUND				
Specie on acct. of interest upon \$53,000 00 U. S. bonds for Coupons, due Jan. and July, 1856,	2,650	00		
Specie on acct. of one-tenth of taxes prior to 1852, and miscellaneous sources from revenue of State, - -	1,538	61		
Specie, on acct. of one-tenth State taxes upon assessments for years 1853, '54, '55 and '56, -	24,162	37		
BY TRANSFER.				
U. S. bonds from State acct. in exchange for like amount in specie, under Act of 29th Aug. 1856.	97,000	00	125,350	98
TO SPECIAL SCHOOL FUND.				
Specie, twelve months interest upon \$2,000,000 U. S. bonds January and July, 1856—Coupons,			100,000	00
				225,31 90
				2,468,5 80

DOC. "A."

SHOWING THE CONDITION OF THE SCHOOL FUNDS FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDING OCTOBER 31st, 1856.

DISBURSEMENTS			
GEN'L SCHOOL FUND.			
In specie upon Treasury warrants drawn upon orders of ct'y Courts, on acct. of patrons unable to pay tuition, -	3,986 06		
BY TRANSFER.			
In specie to State revenue acct. in exchange for alike amount of U. States bonds, under Act of Aug. 29th, 1856,	97,000 00	100,986 06	
SPECIAL SCHOOL FUND.			
In specie upon Treasury warrants drawn upon county orders for Special School Funds of 1854 and 1855, - -	90,931 35		
In specie upon Treasury warrants drawn on acct. of contingent expenses, 1855	213 03	91,144 38	192,130 44
Bal. of cash on hand,			
SCHOOL FUND.			
In specie transferred from general School Fund acct. under an Act providing for the support of schools, approved August 29th, 1856.	3,033 11		
In specie transferred from Special School fund, as above,	123,385 53	126,418 44	

DOC. "A."

SHOWING THE CONDITION OF THE SCHOOL FUNDS FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDING OCTOBER 31st, 1884.

In U. S. Bonds, transferred from General School fund, as above, - -	150,000	00			
In U. S. Bonds, transferred from Special School fund, as above, - -	2,000,000	00	2,150,000	00	2,276,418
					44
					2,468,548
					88

JAS. H. RAYMOND,
Treasurer and Ex-Officio S. of S.

DOC. "B."

STATEMENT

Showing the amounts paid out of the General School Fund, on account of patrons unable to pay their share of teachers salaries, under the provisions of the 12th and 13th Sections of "An Act to establish a system of Schools," approved January 31st, 1854.

TO WHAT COUNTIES PAID.	AMOUNT	REMARKS
Austin, - - - - -	184 04	
Bastrop, - - - - -	177 25	
Bell, - - - - -	66 62	
Brazoria, - - - - -	150 00	
Burnett, - - - - -	103 95	
Cass, - - - - -	27 40	
Comal, - - - - -	20 00	
Caldwell, - - - - -	19 92	
Cherokee, - - - - -	145 56	
Dallas, - - - - -	21 27	
DeWitt, - - - - -	42 01	
Gonzales, - - - - -	127 48	
Gillespie, - - - - -	33 55	
Grayson, - - - - -	222 22	
Grimes, - - - - -	62 13	
Harrison, - - - - -	8 37	
Jackson, - - - - -	23 40	
Lavaca, - - - - -	164 68	
McLennan, - - - - -	104 52	
Nueces, - - - - -	1,088 45	
Red River, - - - - -	48 00	
Sabine, - - - - -	74 52	
Smith, - - - - -	255 76	
Travis, - - - - -	199 85	
Washington, - - - - -	615 11	
Total, - - - - -	3,986 06	

JAS. H. RAYMOND,

Treasurer and Ex-Officio S. of S.

DOC. "C."

Showing what counties have made returns of scholastic population for the year 1856, (the number of children estimated for those counties not making returns for the present year, and amount set aside for counties not making returns for any year,) the number of children returned, and the amount of School Fund due such counties for said year.

COUNTIES.	NO. CHILDREN RETURN'D FOR 1856.	NO. CHILDREN RET.'D, ALW'D FOR 1856.	AMOUNT DUE.	NO. CHILDREN ESTIMATED NO RETURNS.	AMOUNT SET ASIDE UNDER ESTIMATE.
Anderson,		967	1,334 46		
Angelina,		304	419 52		
Atascosa,				100	138 00
Austin,	923		1,273 74		
Bandera,	46		63 48		
Bastrop,		921	1,270 98		
Bell,	778		1,073 64		
Bexar,		1,865	2,573 70		
Bosque,	193		266 34		
Bowie,	509		702 42		
Brazoria,	361		498 18		
Brazos,		204	281 52		
Brown,*					
Burleson,	756		1,043 28		
Burnet,	477		658 26		
Caldwell,	616		850 08		
Calhoun,	320		441 60		
Cameron,	889		1,226 82		
Cass,	952		1,313 76		
Cherokee,	2,302		3,176 76		
Collin,	1,444		1,992 72		
Colorado,	558		770 04		
Comal,	822		1,134 36		
Comanche,	69		95 22		
Cooke,	473		652 74		
Corryell,	487		672 06		
Dallas,	1,365		1,883 70		

* Not organized previous to July 1st, 1856.

DOC. "C."

COUNTIES.	NO. CHILDREN RETURN'D FOR 1856.	NO. CHILDREN RET.'55, AL'WD FOR 1856.	AMOUNT DUE.	NO. CHILDREN ESTIMATED NO RETURNS.	AMOUNT SET ASIDE UNDER ESTIMATE.
Denton,	765		1,055 70		
DeWitt,		458	632 04		
Ellis,		514	709 32		
El Paso,	711		981 18		
Erath,*				100	138 00
Falls,	355		489 90		
Fannin,				1,285	1,773 30
Fayette,	1,287		1,776 06		
Fort Bend,		334	460 92		
Freestone,	714		985 32		
Galveston,		505	696 90		
Gillespie,	640		883 20		
Goliad,	307		423 66		
Gonzales,	1,116		1,540 08		
Grayson,	1,669		2,303 22		
Grimes,	775		1,069 50		
Guadalupe,	837		1,155 06		
Harris,	1,419		1,958 22		
Harrison,	1,212		1,672 56		
Hays,	255		351 90		
Henderson,		515	710 70		
Hidalgo,	213		293 94		
Hill,	423		583 74		
Hopkins,	1,357		1,872 66		
Houston,	918		1,266 84		
Hunt,	877		1,210 26		
Jack,†					
Jackson,	285		393 30		
Jasper,		500	690 00		
Jefferson,	327		451 26		
Johnson,	513		707 94		

* The Assessor and Collector of Bosque county returned nineteen children in that part of Erath taken from Bosque county—balance estimated.

† Not organized previous to July 1st, 1856.

DOC. "C."

COUNTIES.	NO. CHILDREN RETURN'D FOR 1856.	NO. CHILDREN RET.'55, AL'WD FOR 1856.	AMOUNT DUE.	NO. CHILDREN ESTIMATED NO RETURNS.	AMOUNT SET ASIDE UNDER ESTIMATE.
Karnes,		176	242 88		
Kaufman,	617		851 46		
Kerr,				100	138 00
Kinney,*					
Lamar,		1,157	1,596 66		
Lampasas,				100	138 00
Lavaca,	891		1,229 59		
Leon,	721		994 98		
Liberty,	440		607 20		
Limestone,	713		983 94		
Live Oak,†				100	138 00
Llano,				100	138 00
McCulloch,‡					
McLennan,	499		688 62		
Madison,	326		449 88		
Matagorda,		236	325 68		
Maverick,§					
Medina,	315		434 70		
Milam,	510		703 80		
Montgomery,	415		572 70		
Nacogdoches,	1,379		1,903 02		
Navarro,	831		1,146 78		
Newton,	506		698 28		
Nueces,	450		621 00		
Orange,		223	307 74		
Palo Pinto,					
Panola,	1,139		1,571 82		
Parker,	752		1,037 76		
Polk,		504	695 52		
Presidio,¶					

* Not organized previous to July 1st, 1856.

† The Assessor and Collector of San Patricio county returned forty children for that part of Live Oak taken from San Patricio—balance estimated.

‡ Not organized previous to July 1st, 1856.

§ Not organized previous to 1st July, 1856.

|| Not organized previous to July 1st, 1856.

¶ Not organized previous to July 1st, 1856.

DOC. "C."

COUNTIES.	NO. CHILDREN RETURN'D FOR 1856.	NO. CHILDREN RET.'55, AL'WD FOR 1856.	AMOUNT DUE.	NO. CHILDREN ESTIMATED NO RETURNS.	AMOUNT SET ASIDE UNDER ESTIMATE.
Red River,	777		1,072 26		
Refugio,	222		306 36		
Robertson,	459		633 42		
Rusk,	1,983		2,736 54		
Sabine,	393		542 34		
San Augustine,		608	839 04		
San Patricio,	64		88 32		
San Saba,				100	138 00
Shelby,	932		1,286 16		
Smith,	1,869		2,579 22		
Starr,		435	600 30		
Tarrant,	818		1,128 84		
Titus,	1,401		1,933 38		
Travis,	1,231		1,698 78		
Trinity,		228	314 64		
Tyler,		650	897 00		
Upshur,		1,400	1,932 00		
Uvalde,				100	138 00
Van Zandt,	696		960 48		
Victoria.	443		611 34		
Walker,	838		1,156 44		
Washington,	1,362		1,879 56		
Webb,		431	594 78		
Wise,	263		362 94		
Wharton,	127		175 26		
Williamson,	968		1,335 84		
Wood,	841		1,160 58		
Young,				100	138 00
	57,506	13,135	97,484 58	2,185	3,015 30

DOC. "C."

Amount due counties, making returns,	-	\$97,484 58
Amount set aside for counties not making returns,		3,015 30
Amount of contingent expenses,	- - -	1,088 20
Total fund for 1856,	- - - -	\$101,588 08

JAS. H. RAYMOND,
Treasurer and Ex-Officio S. of S.

DOC. "D."

STATEMENT

Exhibiting the balances of Special School Fund for the years 1854 and 1855, in the Treasury to the credit of the several counties of the State, on the 31st October, 1856; also the amounts placed to the credit of the counties on the said date as the distribution of the School Fund for the fiscal year 1856.

COUNTIES.	BALANCE DUE FOR 1854 AND 1855.	AM'T PLACED TO CR. UNDER DISTRIBUTION FOR 1856.	TOTAL AM'T DUE.
Anderson,		1,334 46	1,334 46
Angelina,	519 31	419 52	938 83
Atascosa,*		138 00	138 00
Austin,		1,273 74	1,273 74
Bandera,		63 48	63 48
Bastrop,		1,270 98	1,270 98
Bell,		1,073 64	1,073 64
Bexar,		2,573 70	2,573 70
Bosque,	59 52	266 34	325 86
Bowie,		702 42	702 42
Brazoria,		498 18	498 18
Brazos,		281 52	281 52
Brown,†			
Burleson,		1,043 28	1,043 28
Burnet,		658 26	658 26
Caldwell,		850 08	850 08
Calhoun,		441 60	441 60
Cameron,		1,226 82	1,226 82
Cass,	672 08	1,313 76	1,985 84
Cherokee,		3,176 76	3,176 76
Collin,		1,992 72	1,992 72
Colorado,		770 04	770 04
Comal,		1,134 36	1,134 36
Comanche,		95 22	95 22
Cooke,		652 74	652 74

* Set aside upon estimate.

† Not organized previous to July 1st, 1856.

DOC. "D."

COUNTIES.	BALANCE DUE FOR 1854 AND 1856.		AM'T PLACED TO CR. UNDER DISTRIBUTION FOR 1855.	TOTAL AM'T DUE.
Corryell,	-	-	672 06	672 06
Dallas,	-	-	1,883 70	1,883 70
Denton,	-	-	948 00	2,003 70
DeWitt,	-	-	687 00	1,319 04
Ellis,	-	-	709 32	709 32
El Paso,	-	-	960 00	1,941 18
Erath,*	-	-	138 00	138 00
Falls,	-	-	489 90	489 90
Fannin,†	-	-	2,724 20	4,497 50
Fayette,	-	-	1,776 06	1,776 06
Fort Bend,	-	-	698 16	1,159 08
Freestone,	-	-	985 32	985 32
Galveston,	-	-	295 74	992 64
Gillespie,	-	-	883 20	883 20
Goliad,	-	-	* 648 42	1,072 08
Gonzales,	-	-	1,540 08	1,540 08
Grayson,	-	-	2,303 22	2,303 22
Grimes,	-	-	1,069 50	1,069 50
Guadalupe,	-	-	1,155 06	1,755 06
Harris,	-	-	849 40	2,807 62
Harrison,	-	-	1,672 56	1,672 56
Hays,	-	-	346 50	698 40
Henderson,	-	-	1,110 40	1,821 10
Hidalgo,	-	-	661 44	955 30
Hill,	-	-	583 74	583 74
Hopkins,	-	-	1,872 66	1,872 66
Houston,	-	-	1,266 84	1,266 84
Hunt,	-	-	1,210 26	1,210 26
Jack,‡	-	-		

* Set aside upon estimate.

† Set aside upon estimate.

‡ Not organized previous to July 1st, 1856.

DOC. "D."

COUNTIES.	AMOUNT DUE FOR 1854 AND 1855.		AM'T PLACED TO CR. UNDER DISTRIBUTION FOR 1855.		TOTAL AM'T DUE.	
Jackson, - - -			393	30	393	30
Jasper, - - -	582	82	690	00	1,272	82
Jefferson, - - -	629	38	451	26	1,080	64
Johnson, - - -			707	94	707	94
Karnes, - - -	368	16	242	88	611	04
Kaufman, - - -			851	46	851	46
Kerr,* - - -			138	00	138	00
Kimney,† - - -						
Lamar, - - -			1,596	66	1,596	66
Lampasas,‡ - - -			138	00	138	00
Lavaca, - - -			1,229	58	1,229	58
Leon, - - -	856	50	994	98	1,851	48
Liberty, - - -			607	20	607	20
Limestone, - - -			983	94	983	94
Live Oak,§ - - -			138	00	138	00
Elano, - - -			138	00	138	00
McCulloch,¶ - - -						
McLennan, - - -			688	62	688	62
Madison, - - -			449	88	449	88
Matagorda, - - -			325	68	325	68
Maverick,▼ - - -						
Medina, - - -			434	70	434	70
Milam, - - -			703	80	703	80
Montgomery, - - -			572	70	572	70
Nacogdoches, - - -			1,903	02	1,903	02

* Set aside upon estimate.

† Not organized previous to July 1st, 1856.

‡ Set aside upon estimate.

§ Set aside upon estimate.

|| Not organized previous to July 1st, 1856.

¶ Not organized previous to July 1st, 1856.

▼ Not organized previous to July 1st, 1866.

DOC. "D."

COUNTIES.	AM'T PLACED TO CR. UNDER DISTRIBUTION FOR 1855.	BALANCE DUE FOR 1854 AND 1856.	TOTAL AM'T DUE.
Navarro, - - -		1,146 78	1,146 78
Newton, - - -	899 20	698 28	1,597 48
Nueces, - - -		621 00	621 00
Orange, - - -	125 86	307 74	433 60
Palo Pinto,* - - -			
Panola, - - -		1,571 82	1,571 82
Parker, - - -		1,037 76	1,037 76
Polk, - - -	756 00	695 52	1,451 52
Presidio,† - - -			
Red River, - - -		1,072 26	1,072 26
Refugio, - - -		306 36	306 36
Robertson, - - -	885 04	633 42	1,518 46
Rusk, - - -		2,736 54	2,736 54
Sabine, - - -		542 34	542 34
San Augustine, - - -		839 04	839 04
San Patricio, - - -	225 86	88 32	314 18
San Saba,‡ - - -		138 00	138 00
Shelby, - - -		1,286 16	1,286 16
Smith, - - -		2,579 22	2,579 22
Starr, - - -	867 40	600 30	1,467 70
Tarrant, - - -		1,128 84	1,128 84
Titus, - - -		1,933 38	1,933 38
Travis, - - -		1,698 78	1,698 78
Trinity, - - -	342 00	314 64	656 64
Tyler, - - -		897 00	897 00
Upshur, - - -		1,932 00	1,932 00
Uvalde,§ - - -		138 00	138 00
Van Zandt, - - -	1,253 30	960 48	2,213 78
Victoria, - - -		611 34	611 34

* Not organized previous to July 1st, 1856.

† Not organized previous to July 1st, 1856.

‡ Set aside upon estimate.

§ Set aside upon estimate.

DOC. "D."

COUNTIES.	AM'T PLACED TO OR, UNDER DISTRIBUTION FOR 1855.		BALANCE DUE FOR 1854 AND 1856.		TOTAL AMOUNT DUE.	
Walker, - - -	1,615	12	1,156	44	2,771	56
Washington, - - -			1,879	56	1,879	56
Webb, - - -	954	70	594	78	1,549	48
Wise, - - -			362	94	362	94
Wharton, - - -	255	74	175	26	431	00
Williamson, - - -			1,335	84	1,335	84
Wood, - - -			1,160	58	1,160	58
Young,* - - -			138	00	138	00
	21,797	25	100,499	88	122,297	13
Add amount reserved for cont'g't expenses, 1856,					1,088	20
Total, - - -					123,385	33

JAS. H. RAYMOND,
Treasurer and Ex-Officio S. of S.

* Set aside upon estimate.

REPORT FOR 1857.

REPORT.

TREASURER'S OFFICE.

AUSTIN, October 31st, 1857.

TO HIS EXCELLENCY, E. M. PEASE,
Governor of the State of Texas:

The "7th-section of "An Act providing for the support of Schools," approved 29th August, 1856, makes it the duty of the Treasurer, to report to the Governor, annually, the condition of the School Fund, &c., and in compliance with that duty, I have the honor herewith to place at your disposal, exhibits of the receipts and disbursements of this office in connection with the School Fund, for the fiscal year ending this date—of distribution of School monies, and other matters in relation thereto.

Exhibit "A," shows the receipts and disbursements of the office, and the present condition of the School Fund.

It will be seen by reference to this exhibit, under the Head of "Receipts," that there was paid into the Treasury during the fiscal year, in specie, from one-tenth the tax on all land scrip, and premium on United States Bonds, the sum of \$64,672.34.

Add balance on hand from same sources, \$3,033.11
October 31, 1856.

Total, \$67,705.45

The revenue from these sources is placed to the credit of the principal of the School Fund, and this amount has been disposed of as follows:

Invested July 1st, 1857, in United States Bonds, \$33,000.00

Loaned to H. and T. Central Railway Company to make up deficiency in United States Bonds	13,000 00
---	-----------

Paid upon account of tuition of indigent children, under act of January, 1854,	5,898 28
--	----------

Balance in Treasury, convert- able into United States Bonds, July 1st, 1858	15,806 17 \$	67,705 45
---	--------------	-----------

This exhibit shows the total principal of the School Fund as follows:

In United States 5 per cent Bonds	\$1,986,000 00
--------------------------------------	----------------

In 6 per cent Bonds of H. and T. Central Railroad Com- pany,	210,000 00
--	------------

In specie, convertible into United States Bonds,	15,807 17
---	-----------

Total	\$2,211,807 17
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The disbursable fund, in specie, as follows:

Due counties upon distribu- tion,	\$126,408 69
For contingent purposes,	1,947 09
For distribution in 1858,	914,48 \$129,270 26

Total balance,	\$2,341,077 43
----------------	----------------

In making the loans to the Houston and Texas Central
Railway Company on the 28th inst., upon their bond for
\$60,000, this office charged a premium of 5 per cent, upon the
United States Bonds loaned, say 56 United States Bonds of
\$1,000 each.

5 per cent, premium on same,	2,800 00
------------------------------	----------

Balance made up by interest accrued upon bonds from July 1st, 1857,	\$914 48
And specie,	285 52 1,300 00

Makes amount of loan,	\$60,000,00
-----------------------	-------------

The premium collected of the company upon these Bonds,
was done under the 2d section of the act authorizing the loan,

which requires them to be loaned "at their current value, including premium; provided said value shall not be less than par, otherwise at par." The value of these Bonds, for some time past, has been regulated by the premium paid upon them in their redemption at the United States Treasury. In a notice issued by the Secretary of the Treasury, about the 1st inst., he advertised to redeem the Texas Indemnity Bonds at 5 per cent premium, from and after the 1st day of November. This was the authority upon which the premium was fixed at 5 per cent, upon the Bonds loaned to the company aforesaid on the 28th inst. Still, on the very day of the loan, private advices were received here, that the Secretary of the Treasury, had on the 14th inst., discontinued the redemption of United States Stocks for the present. This information was considered reliable, but to act upon it, left the office without data, upon which to fix the value of the Bonds; they were, therefore, paid to the company, at the premium mentioned, with the understanding and agreement that the rate should be determined by their value in the stock market of New York City on the 12th day of November following, provided that rate was not below par—if below par; then at par. The premium collected, has not been charged to the Treasurer, and he is, consequently, responsible to the company for the difference, less, between the amount collected and what the value of the Bonds proves to be above par on the date mentioned; and to the School Fund for any amount of premium they may be worth at that time.

Exhibit "B," is a statement of the distribution of School Fund made to the counties for fiscal year 1857.

This statement shows 116 counties in the State; of which number, four are still unorganized. Of the organized counties, one hundred and four made returns of scholastic census for the year 1857, leaving eight counties, without returns, to receive their distributive share of the School Fund, in accordance with the 9th section of the School Law, of August, 1856. Of these eight counties, the following had made returns for some previous year, viz: Angelina, Galveston, Nueces and Webb; and the amount placed opposite to them will be paid as their share of the School Fund of 1857. The remaining four organized counties, to-wit: Brown, Jack, Uvalde and Young are new counties, that have never sent up a scholastic census return. The amounts, therefore, opposite to these are upon estimate, subject to correction, by taking such returns as may

be sent up next year, and deducting the per centage of increase therefrom. No allowance has been made to the four unorganized counties.

The one hundred and four counties that made returns, show a scholastic population of 84,118

The four counties placed upon the basis of the previous year 2,114

The four counties estimated 567

Total scholastic population for 1857, 86,799

The School Fund on hand, derived from interest on United States Bonds from July 1st, 1856, to July 1st, 1857, and including the balance of the fund held for contingent purposes for 1856, is

\$106,973 88

Disposed of as follows:

Placed to credit of counties under distribution made this

date, say \$86,799

Children at \$1.21 per child 105,026 '79

Reserved for contingent purposes 1,947 09 106,973 88

Exhibit "C" shows first: The payments made to counties, under the 12th and 13th sections of the School Act of January 31st 1854, on account of patrons unable to pay; Second: The payments to counties from the distributions to School Fund for the years 1854, '55 and '56; Third: The balance due to counties for said years; Fourth: The amounts placed to the credit of the counties for the year 1857, and Fifth: The total amounts standing to the credit of counties at this date.

The payments under Act of January, 1854, for patrons unable to pay, were for tuition had prior to October 31st, 1856, in Schools conducted to that date, under the Act of 1854. There are on file in this office, reports from four counties, showing an amount of \$727 64 still due on this account which, when paid, will about bring it to a close.

In addition to the report from this office, upon the condition of the School Fund, and the expenditures of monies, the School Law also requires from the Treasurer "such suggestions in regard to the School system as may be deemed advisable."

Although the present system has had but a partial trial

still it has been found defective—the law conflicting in parts, and wanting much in detail, causing more or less difficulty to the officers and teachers in those counties where the system was adopted and worked under during the past year. Owing to the fact that the law of August 29th, 1856, could not be placed in the hands of many of the county courts, until after the District elections for trustees had been held under the Act of January, 1854, and those trustees, in many instances, had entered into contract with teachers for tuition for the scholastic years 1856,—57; (which contracts could not well be rescinded,) it resulted that during the last scholastic year (to August 31st, 1857) some of the counties worked under the District system of the Act of 1854; others adopted at once the system of the Act of August, 1856; and some never organizing or having schools under either system, so that there has been no uniformity of action, and but little information gained relative to the probability of the present law on the subject of schools proving satisfactory to the public at large.

The 10th section of the Act of August, 1856, makes it the duty of this office to require of the county courts “an annual report of the number of schools, the number of children, the disposition of the fund, and such other information as will give a correct idea of the schools.” This requirement has been made of the county courts of every county in the State, by a circular, issued from this office, dated November 17th, 1856; but I regret to say it has not received general attention. Up to this date, but twenty-two counties, out of one hundred and twelve organized counties, have sent in their reports for the past year, and such as have reported, with but few honorable and praiseworthy exceptions, are greatly wanting in detail, and devoid of interest or information of value to this office, in making that part of its report under the head of “suggestions;” which, properly, is dependent for its basis, upon these county reports. This office has no other reliable source of information than the county courts. The law looks to them for reports of its workings; its defects, and such suggestions of change, amendment or addition as experience shows to be necessary.—These, when general, full and explicit, would comprise a mass of information for this office to lay before the Honorable Legislature, and thus enable that body to legislate understandingly in their efforts to make more perfect our school system.

Accompanying this, in document marked “D,” will be found

either full copies or extracts of the most important parts of such reports as have been received.

From the correspondence this Office has had with Chief Justices, Teachers and others, more or less interested in Schools, more knowledge has been obtained of the defects in the last School Law, and the amendments necessary to enable counties to work with ease and uniformity under it, than from any other source.

Our present annual School Fund, for distribution, say \$106,973 88, among 86,799 children, is entirely inadequate to justify expectations of anything approaching a creditable or perfect system, and unless the annual fund can be largely increased, so that by its amount the people of the State will be induced to take more interest in the cause of common school education than they now do, I am convinced that our present (apology for a) system should be adhered to—only let it be amended—made clear and explicit, so that all can understand it, and be enabled to avail themselves of the benefits to be derived from it.

I am satisfied that the District System of the Act of 1854, would have proven more acceptable and more beneficial than the present one; provided, County and District Officers had felt such deep and abiding interest in the subject as to have ensured their active, energetic and persevering labors in the various duties assigned to them by the law. But as that system was condemned by the last Legislature as too cumbersome, too inefficient, and the law, therefore, repealed, I am far from recommending the repeal of the present law—a change of the present system—because it, too, has, in the short and partial experience under its workings, proved to be defective and not meeting fully the expectations of the people. It would be folly to change our system every two years. If it is done, the people will never know the law: they will never be able to work to advantage and profit under any system with such constant changes. Better have a poor system well understood, than to have the most approved, and the people ignorant of its provisions. The present one is admitted inefficient, but let us try to make it efficient; let such amendments be made as are most needed, so that the benefits intended by the law may be easily understood and arrived at.

To remedy apparent defects and reconcile conflicting provisions in the law, I would respectfully suggest the following amendments, and give a few of the reasons why necessary.

Assuming that the present Legislature will, without doubt, pass a law changing the time from the 31st day of October to the 31st day of August, for the fiscal year to close, the different Offices of Government, I would suggest that the scholastic year, both fiscal and teaching, should close on that date (August, 31st,) also. Such a change would make the annual distribution of the School Fund two months earlier than at present, and this of itself would be of great advantage to Teachers in enabling them to receive their pay more promptly ; it would also give this Office sufficient time to prepare its reports and present them to the Legislature at its commencement, instead of sending them in a month or six weeks thereafter.

The law should be so amended as to fix the *teaching* scholastic year from the 1st of September to the 31st of August following, and schools taught within those dates only, to be included in any given year's tuition; and require of every teacher whose school has been conducted under the law, with the expectation of being benefitted by its provisions, to report forthwith to the County Court as required in the 5th Section of the Law. In addition to the requirements made of the teachers in said Section, it should be made their duty to state in their reports the names of all the scholars, the amount of tuition, what has been paid by each patron, and what is still unpaid. As the system now works, some patrons pay the teachers the full amount of tuition due by them. The teachers report to the County Court the names of the scholars and the number of days tuition only ; and the County Court, in making the distribution under the 4th Section of the law, having no evidence of the teachers having received full tuition from some of the patrons, allow them the pro-rata upon the basis of their reports, when, in fact, the pro-rata of all such as have paid in full, should go to such patrons instead of the teachers. As the law now stands, there is no check upon the teachers. They can before, or even after their report is made to the County Court, collect from such patrons as are able to pay in full the whole tuition due, and still receive from the County Court the pro-rata due the children of such patrons, without the patrons having any knowledge of the amount, or being benefitted in anywise by the State bounty, unless they individually call upon the teachers for a settlement. By reference to the report made to this Office from the County Court of Caldwell County, it will be observed that they have adopted a course curing this defect in the law, by which the patrons will receive their pro-

rata of the School Fund, without its passing into the hands of the teachers. They presume that all who are not classed in the law as "indigent," will pay the teachers in full according to contract, and instead of paying the public fund remaining on hand after the tuition of the indigent has been satisfied to the teachers, the County Court appoints for *each* school taught in the County under the law, three responsible patrons to receive the money, and pay to each patron his or her distributive share of the fund, requiring said agents to make full reports of their acts at the February term of said Court following their appointment. This plan has worked well in Caldwell County, and I would suggest that provision be made in the law, making it the duty of County Courts to adopt a similar one in their respective Counties. It would have this advantage over the present provision. Teachers could at once, after closing a school session, collect from all patrons able to pay, the full amount of tuition due by them without having to wait for the annual distribution of the State bounty. The patrons instead of the teachers would then wait, but it is my impression they would be more certain to receive their distributive shares from persons so appointed, than through the teachers, at least, with more convenience. Even if the amounts should not be paid to the teachers, but left in the County Treasury to the credit of the patrons, it would be inconvenient for each patron to call for the small amounts due them, and this would be obviated in a great measure by the appointment of trusty patrons of each school to pay such dues in their immediate neighborhood.

The law is clearly defective in not providing some standard other than the affidavit of the teachers for determining what patrons are unable to pay their share of tuition. As it now stands, it simply requires the teachers to be satisfied that a patron is unable to pay, without defining the process to be pursued to arrive at such result, when they can report their conclusions under oath to the Chief Justice and receive payment for tuition due by such patrons, having them classed under the head of indigent. I would suggest that the teacher's oath be supported by the certificate of at least two responsible paying patrons of the school, to the effect that they are acquainted with the pecuniary circumstances of the person or persons included in the report of the teacher as unable to pay, and are satisfied that the statement of the teacher is correct, and that the amount reported should be allowed; or give the County Court revisory powers, so that by examination of the tax rolls

on file in the County Clerk's Office, and by their individual knowledge of the situation of most of the residents of the County, that body can check any errors made by teachers in their returns, and make such corrections as facts in its possession will justify.

There is some difference of opinion among County Courts as to the proper construction of the proviso to the 4th Section of the law. A short time since I had occasion to submit the law to the Attorney General for his opinion upon some doubtful points, and in his reply, upon the construction of this proviso, he says: "It might be understood from its language, that no child whose tuition has been entirely paid from any source, shall receive a benefit under the law. The manifest injustice which would result from such a construction, requires us to find some other, if consistent with the terms of the Act. To illustrate:—It may happen, that one patron who is able to pay, has paid; another, equally able, has paid only in part, or not all. The law certainly did not intend to give any advantage to the *non-payers* on account of their default, not arising from inability. The meaning of the proviso, as I take it, is, that no money shall be paid to a scholar, in any event, over and above what is sufficient to discharge the amount due for tuition, in cases where a surplus remains after paying in full the indebtedness of all the schools." This, without doubt, is the true interpretation of the proviso; but a school law, above all others, should be so framed as to be understood alike by all; leave no room for false constructions, to the end that there may be uniformity in its operations.

Some Counties have met with difficulties in determining the character and rate of tuition, that should be allowed to such as come under the head of *indigent*. By a compliance with the law, all schools are declared "free public Schools." This, of course, would include Colleges, Universities, Academies and Institutions of the highest grade, where the charges are regulated by the course of studies pursued, as well as the Country Schools where teachers are employed at fixed monthly wages, or at so much a session for each scholar without reference to the studies pursued. Now it is natural that parents should prefer schools presenting the greatest advantages, and it is not to be wondered at, that those who are unable to pay the tuition of their children—availing themselves of the benefits of the law to the fullest extent—should send their children to the best institutions open to receive them. This

course is pursued, particularly in the towns and villages where schools of a high grade are in operation, and the result is, that the tuition of such children has to be paid at the high rates of such schools, out of the public fund, provided therefor.— This is giving superior advantages to some of the same class, and manifest injustice to those children, who differently located, and attending schools in the country, are confined in their studies to elementary branches of English, at rates of tuition at least three-fourths less than those attending the high schools—all to be paid out of the same fund, and under the same provision of the act. To meet these high rates of tuition for the indigent, will prove an onerous burden to the counties; besides, there is a want of justice in such an unequal distribution of the State bounty, and a little reflection, will I think, convince any one that some established rate of tuition should be fixed for such scholars as are unable to pay. This can be done, either by authorizing the County Courts to fix the rates for their respective Counties, by an allowance to each teacher or school of so much per day, for each day's tuition of this class of scholars. This would make the benefits of the law uniform throughout a County, or by the Legislature fixing the rate in the law, which would make it uniform throughout the State. By adopting either of these plans, it would lead such institutions of learning to regulate their charges by the course of tuition given, to have primary departments, where they could afford tuition to the children of the indigent at the rate established by the County or State; or, if allowing a full course to students, they would know what they could receive from the County Treasury therefor.

Provision is also required to cover another defect in the law. It frequently occurs that schools are organized on the borders of a County, attended by scholars from adjoining Counties. The teachers of such schools are only required to make their report of tuition to the County Court of the County in which such schools are located; and in doing this they include the tuition of scholars not belonging to that County, but who have been estimated in other Counties, and whose tuition should be chargeable to the county from whence they came. The fund of one County should not be appropriated to pay the expenses of tuition due from residents of other Counties. I would suggest that the law make it the duty of teachers, under such circumstances, to report to the different County Courts, the actual attendance from each

County sending scholars to such schools, and the reports of such teachers be considered by the County Courts the same as if the schools had been located within the limits of their County.

There is an evident disposition in some Counties to make use of the present school fund, only for the tuition of such as are unable to pay. The fund is sufficient to meet the wants of this class, but after they are paid, there is so little left for general distribution; the pro rata is so small, as scarcely to make it an object to pay out, or for those interested to claim. As the indigent are most in need of State bounty, and the evident intention of the law is to give them, if none others, present help, I think it might prove well to allow County Courts to exercise discretion; and after paying all charges for indigent, to either distribute the balance according to the present provisions of the act, or give them the privilege of loaning the same, with approved security at 10 or 12 per cent interest, thereby having an accumulating County school fund, to be used hereafter as sound policy may dictate.

I would respectfully call attention to the report (in document "D") of the Chief Justice of Comal County, to the effect upon that County, of the abolishment of the District system established under the Act of 1854. This report is so full in its preference for the District system over the present one, that it is unnecessary for me to say more, than that other Counties are in a similar situation to that of Comal, and suggest that provision might be made for such Counties as fully complied with the Act of 1854, by organizing their districts, building and furnishing school-houses &c., to allow them to continue, at their option, the district system. It may be urged against this, that there would be no system or uniformity of action. Grant the objections; but it will lose all force, when, what we now call a system is closely scanned. It will be found, not a system, but an excuse or apology for, the distribution of so much money, annually, among the different Counties, which, when once in their possession, can take as many different directions as the law is capable of different constructions, or as the opinions of the County Courts will permit the use thereof. There is no other check than the County Treasurer, who, consenting, the fund can be, (and in some cases, I fear, has been) used for locating school-lands supporting paupers, and paying ordinary County debts. But, as I have said before, the annual School Fund is too insignifi-

cant, when compared to the number of children, to give hope or expectation of a system, affording general benefit, at all creditable to the State. Without a large increase of the fund, our efforts should be mainly directed to the education of such as are unable to pay tuition, and abandon the hope of a system of common schools, free to all—rich and poor—until we have the means to justify it.

There is evidently a general desire for a change in that provision of the State Constitution preventing the sale, for a period of twenty years, of the lands donated to the several counties for public schools, so that they may be made available for present purposes in the support of schools. In my report to the Sixth Legislature, I called the attention of that body to this change, by making use of the suggestions of your Excellency upon the subject in your annual message to the Honorable Legislature, under date December 23, 1853. It will be observed that the Chief Justices of Comal and Fayette Counties, in their reports, call particular attention to this subject, and I am satisfied that it would meet with the views of a large majority of the people of Texas. I therefore, confidently trust the present Legislature will take the initiatory step for such an amendment to the Constitution as will authorize the subdividing of those lands into small tracts, and the sale of alternate tracts, at not less rate than a stated minimum upon time, with 6 per cent interest, payable annually. Such a policy would give immediate benefit to many Counties in sustaining a system of schools, besides being conducive to the settlement and prosperity of those Counties wherein large bodies of these school lands are located.

I would recommend the repeal of the following clause of the 7th section of the law:

"That the County Court of each County, after ascertaining that the patrons returned are unable to pay the tuition, shall make a return of the same to the State Treasurer, who, upon the order of the County Court, under the Seal of their Office, in favor of the County, shall pay over to said County Court their distributive shares of the interest of the School Fund."

This is a second and entirely different provision for the payment of the *same fund* to the Counties; the 3rd section of the act providing for the distribution of the whole annual fund arising from interest, leaving nothing in the State Treasury to pay to Counties under the provisions of the 7th section. All of the 7th section following the above recited

clause should be added to the end of the 6th section, where it will be seen, more properly to belong.

The act of August, 1856, provided for one copy of said act to be furnished to each County Court and to each Assessor and Collector. This, I felt satisfied, was totally inadequate to furnish such general information of its provisions as was demanded, I therefore procured in addition, the printing of two thousand copies, in pamphlet form, which I accompanied with a circular to "School Officers," giving such explanation of the laws as I considered necessary to its proper introduction into use, as also, with such forms as would aid officers in the discharge of their duties, which were distributed among the Counties. I send herewith a printed copy of said circular, dated November 27th, 1856; also, a printed copy of my circular of October 2nd, 1857, in order that the Legislature can, if desirable, correct any errors I may have fallen into in my interpretation of the School Law.

Respectfully submitted by

Your Excellency's

Obedient Servant

JAS. H. RAYMOND,

Treasurer and ex-Officio Superintendent of Schools.

ABSTRACT
OF
REPORTS OF COUNTY COURTS,
UNDER 10TH SECTION OF ACT OF AUGUST 29, 1856,

ABSTRACT.

ANDERSON COUNTY.

JAMES H. RAYMOND,

Treasurer of the State of Texas :

SIR—In accordance with your instructions upon the School Law, I proceed to report to you the disposition of the school fund of this county, viz : Twenty-four schools reported to Chief Justice ; \$434,18 paid on account of indigent patrons ; \$1406,59 proportioned according to time at school—3 cents received by each student per day while at school.

Teachers and the County Court have found considerable difficulty in determining who are unable to pay tuition fees, except the children of widows and orphan children, who are sufficiently defined to leave no doubt as to whether they are beneficiaries or not.

I think it would be better for the law to determine specifically, who they are who are unable to pay, either by requiring the parent to swear he is unable to pay, (instead of the teacher) or, by the amount of visible property he may possess.

J. W. GARDNER,
Chief Justice, &c.

BOSQUE COUNTY.

There were three schools taught in the county, which closed under the law of August, 1856.

Number of children sent to school,	-	82	
Total number of days, attendance,	-	5902	
Total amount received for 1854,	-	-	\$58 92
" " " 1855,	-	-	151 50
" " " 1856,	-	-	266 34
Total,	-	-	\$476 76

Amount paid to teachers under Act	
of August, 1856,	\$274 06
Amount paid to patrons unable to pay,	32 00
“ “ under Act of Feb., 1854,	168 04
“ “ for forward'g and collect'g,	2 66

Total,	\$476 76
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I think it proper that I should say, that the citizens, so far as I know, are well satisfied with the present school law, and hope that the fund will be increased sufficiently to educate all the children in the State.

In order to increase the present school fund, it is the opinion of many persons that the Constitution should be changed so far as to allow the State to purchase the school lands belonging to the counties, and apply the proceeds to school purposes. There are some school lands which cannot be of any benefit to the counties, as contemplated by the donation, for many years to come; and the hardy pioneer should receive some benefit from them, as the rising generation will be better able and have better opportunities to educate their children than we have.

L. H. SCRATCHFIELD,
Chief Justice.

CALDWELL COUNTY.

To amount received from State Treasurer of	
School fund, for 1854, '55 and '56,	\$2,108 00

Cr.

By am't paid to sundry schools under	
Act of 1854,	\$367 55

By amount paid Commission County	
Treasurer,	165 40

By balance distributed as below stated,	1,635 05
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\$2,108 00

To balance above stated in hands of County	
Treasurer,	\$1,635 05

Cr.

By amount distributed, to-wit:

To teachers—tuition of 37 paupers,	\$215 56
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To patrons of 11 schools, 19,916 days		
attendance, 7 1-8 cts. per day,	-	1,418 97
By balance not distributed,	-	52

\$1,635 05

We would further report, that we appointed for each school three good, responsible patrons to receive the money due the same from the Treasurer, and pay to each patron his distributive share of the fund: said agents to make full reports to this Court, at its February term, 1858:—which plan, thus far, seems to work well. From the foregoing statement, you will notice that the fund due this county, for the year 1857, will be held for the next distribution, August 31, 1858.

JOHN B. McMAHAN,
Chief Justice.

CASS COUNTY.

We have one hundred and forty-nine patrons in this county, and three hundred and twenty-five children have attended school—thirteen schools having been taught in the county. We have yet on hand, of the special school fund, \$3,460.

Forty-one children have attended school, who are unable to pay tuition, &c., which amounts in all to \$232 07.

CHARLES AMES,
Chief Justice.

COOKE COUNTY.

Ten schools have been taught in this county for the scholastic year 1857. The number of children attending school is 320. The number of days 18,665. We find the proportion to be 6 2-11 cents per day for each scholar.

The amount found to be due for the tuition of indigent children is \$45 29.

JOHN C. MAGEE,
Chief Justice.

COMAL COUNTY.

In obedience to the requirements of the 10th Section of "An Act providing for the support of schools," approved

August 29, 1856, the County Court of Comal county hereby respectfully submit their Report of the schools in operation in the county, during the school year, ending August 31st, 1857, according to the annual reports of the teachers presented to said Court.

The amount this county received in November,

1856, from the special school fund, was	-	\$1,134	35
From the general school fund was	-	-	163 20
Balance on hand,	-	-	175 54

\$1,473 09

Of which the 1st S. Dist. (180 ch'n)	rec'd	\$911	42
2d " (55 ")	"	262	69
3d " (47 ")	"	298	42

\$1,472 53

No other district made any report.

According to the year's return, made to your office by the Assessor and Collector of this county, there are in this county 1094 children of the age from six to eighteen years, from which number 429 are reported as having attended five schools in this county. All schools reported are at and near the county seat, but none were reported from the upper part of the county. It may be that there were some schools in operation, but the teachers did omit to send in their reports, notwithstanding they were notified by an advertisement, in the newspaper printed at the county seat, to send in their reports by September.

The accompanying tabular statement shows that of the five schools reported, one school, located at New Braunfels, where three teachers are employed, had 295 scholars during the last year, who attended said school 40,433 days, which being on the average 137 days for each child.

Another school, located in Comaltown, had 44 children for 3,688 days in attendance, which makes 84 days for each child. The third school is located about five miles from town, on the San Antonio road, where 42 pupils were in attendance 3,624 days which makes 86 days for each child. The fourth school is located about five miles from town, in the mountains, where 29 children were sent during seven months, 1,814 days, which makes 62 days for each child. And the fifth school is located about eighteen miles from town, on the road to Fredericksburg, where there were 19 children sent during 3 1-2 months, 1,265 days, being 66 days on the average for each child.

From the foregoing, it can be seen that there was a considerable regularity in attendance.

Throughout the greatest part of this county, and more particularly among the German population of the same, (the part of the county, where those five schools reported are located, is settled almost exclusively by natives of Germany) a great interest for public schools is felt, as exemplified after the passage of the school law of 1854, that, immediately in six or seven districts of this county, subscriptions for school-houses were raised, and school-houses built or commenced ; but, after the passage of the present school law, which repealed the District System, in some of them the completing of the same ceased. At New Braunfels a large, substantial school-house, with three large rooms, was built and furnished by voluntary contributions of the citizens, and finished in April, 1856. The school patrons, soon after, finding the same too small for the great number of children, resolved to add to said building another very large room, which was finished and furnished in April, 1857, also by voluntary contributions ; and if the crops in our county had not have proved an entire failure this year, still another building would have been added to it, which now must be delayed until times become better. In said school three teachers are employed in four classes, and a fourth teacher will be employed as soon as the necessary funds for his salary can be obtained. For the same school, a library, which very probably consists of nearly 1000 volumes, is now on the way from Germany, as a gift from friends and relations in Germany to said school, together with over 100 volumes contributed from gentlemen of New York.

According to the Act passed at the last Legislature, authorizing the Trustees of the several school districts of Comal county to levy and collect a special tax for school purposes, approved February 4, 1856, I call to your recollection my last annual report, in which I communicated that an election in the several school districts of this county was ordered, at which election two of the districts voted in favor of said tax, to-wit : New Braunfels district, (with 5-6 for and 1-6 against) and the Comaltown precinct ; and, in those two precincts, the public schools were principally supported by their shares of the school fund and said tax. Several of the other districts, which at that time voted against said tax, have since found out that such a tax operates very well, and is no burden at all on the people, but does more to keep up the schools than anything

else, and, therefore, they wish very much to benefit themselves by said Act. However, the Chief Justice is prevented ordering a new election by the terms of the last Act abolishing the school districts.

As indicated in the above mentioned last annual report from this county, the present school law is more defective than the law of 1854, and one of the greatest objections to the law in force now, is the abolishing of the District System. The former law the people had hardly time to get acquainted with, and get perfectly familiar with. It was defective in many instances, but not in so many as the present law.

According to the law of 1854, each county was to be laid out in school districts of convenient size, and each district had to elect its Trustees and build school-houses. In this county most of the districts have elected their trustees, and six or seven have built school-houses; but after having done all which the law required, the next Legislature does away with the District System, and the question is, now, to whom do such school-houses belong? It may happen that two or three teachers would like to keep schools in such a district, each of them will have the support of some of the patrons—who shall have the preference? Who superintends such buildings and their furniture? If all the citizens shall do it, then certainly it will not be much cared for. Furthermore, under the former law, the patrons had to indicate, at an annual meeting, to their trustees, the kind of school they wanted, the amount of salary they wished to pay their teachers, etc; but the appointing of teachers was left entirely to the trustees; the teachers had nothing to do with the patrons; they were only dependent upon the trustees; and, as it is always easier to get along with three men selected by the people, than with the whole mass of the people, the teachers were much better off under the former system than under the new one. And the consequence is, as it is to be seen every day in every county, that county schools spring up every day, but, in most of the cases, after a short time, one or the other patron finds fault with the teacher, and does not send his children any more, until, after a while, the teacher finds so few children in his school that he has to give it up, as it does not pay. Such people being, perhaps, very anxious to have their children educated as well as their means allow; after some time they get another teacher, and so it goes on the same way. But, after having done all that was in their power to get up a school, they

will lose their share of the school fund, as such teacher has to swear that he has taught his school for a period of at least three months; but it may happen that, in all, such a school was taught for nearly nine months during the year, and still the people would not be entitled to their share of the school fund, as none of the teachers had been employed there three months; and if one of them had really taught so long, he has since left without having made his report. All such things could not happen under the District System, as then it would be the duty of the trustees to look out for the interest of the school, and to collect all the money they could get. As the trustees had to employ the teachers, the latter look to them for their payment; and they were responsible for it so far as the income; of the school would go and if they had discharged one teacher, they would directly employ another one, the school always remaining the same, and being entitled to draw its share of the school fund for the number of days the school was taught. It is to be supposed that the people will elect such trustees as will be qualified to fill said office, and feel interest enough in the cause of education to promote this object. But as it often happens that the people do not find the best men at once, therefore, it is certainly better to have an election for trustees every year, so that people may have a chance to get trustees in case the former should not give satisfaction; and, if elected every two years, too much time for the children would be lost, should the trustees not do their duty.

The plan, the undersigned County Court would unanimously recommend, is the same as indicated in the last annual report from this county, namely:

The Constitution should be so amended, that each county should sell, annually, a part of its school lands, (say the alternate section of one league) under the same stipulations as set forth in "An act authorizing the disposition and sale of the University lands," approved August 30th, 1856; and that the interest derived from the sale of said lands be annually added by the County Court to the share of this county of the State school fund, which, in a few years, in most of the counties, would bring a sufficient amount to establish free schools throughout the whole county. The sale of school lands, advocated so much by the message of his Excellency, Governor Pease, and your reports to the Legislature, was also very strongly recommended at the last Legislature by Dr. Kittrell,

Chairman of the committee on Education, (Journal of the House of Representatives, p. 310.)

Furthermore, we would recommend the appointment of a State Superintendent of Public Schools, (as already recommended by you in your report to the last Legislature,) with a sufficient salary and other requisites for said office.

The duty of said Superintendent would be to oversee all schools in the State, give such recommendations to the school officers as he thinks fit to promote the object in view, recommend new books and apparatus for said schools; if requested, import such books and apparatus in the counties at the least possible expense, visit the schools occasionally, etc. He should make the distribution of the school fund among the several counties of the State; the moneys derived therefrom should be paid *semi-annually*, instead of annually, as is now the case; and whereby the teachers have to suffer the most, who have generally to wait for their hard-earned and often comparatively very small salary almost a year.

Each county to be divided into school districts; each district having the right to levy and collect a school tax, if the majority of the voters of such a district consent to it, at an election to be held in the district by an order of the Chief Justice, at the request of at least ten patrons of such a district. Then the Chief Justice of each county should be made *ex-officio* Superintendent of schools in his county; should order all elections for said purpose; should visit each school within the county at least once a year; should once or twice a year, at stipulated times, hold a meeting at the county seat, with the assistance of at least one Trustee from each district, at which meetings the recommendations, etc., of the State Superintendent be presented, the reports of each district received and read, such suggestions and alterations as required be made, the districts laid out or altered or discontinued as it may be agreed upon, the county school fund distributed, complaints against trustees or teachers be heard, investigated, and if necessary, the trustees or teachers removed, teachers examined and licensed, etc., and, in particular, it should be the object of such a Court to carry out the plan which, in most of the counties, can be carried out, and should be carried out; that is, that all the different schools in the county should be connected together; that primary schools should be established in such districts where the population is more scattered, and better schools, if possible, where it is more dense, and at the

county seat, where, in most all the counties, the population is thicker, a higher school established, in which the children would then be well prepared to be benefited by the Universities which are to be established now in the State, but by the present state of the schools in the county, will only be beneficial to the children of wealthiest parents, as the tuition fees of high schools are so high now.

The undersigned is perfectly convinced that, in such a way, with a very trifling expense to the county, the people of the whole State would, within a few years, have the best and most beneficial system of schools. And after the adoption of such a system, should the object in view be not carried out in some of the counties, it will be the fault of the people themselves in such counties, if they do not elect such officers, who do not feel interest enough in the education of their children who when grown, become the rulers of the country. Under no kind of government, a good and uniform system for the education of children is of more importance than in a Republican government; and it is the best thing to prevent rowdyism and crime.

TH. KOESTER,

Chief Justice, Comal County.

NEW BRAUNFELS, October 6, 1857.

[For tabular statement, Comal county, see next page.]

STATE OF TEXAS, }
COUNTY OF COMAL. }

Annual Report of the County Court of Comal County to the State Treasurer, of children who attended schools from September first, 1856, to August thirty-first, 1857, according to the returns of the teachers in said County, made to the said County Court :

NAMES TEACHERS.	WHERE THE SCHOOL IS LOCATED.	NUMBER OF CHILDREN.	NUMBER OF DAYS ATTENDANCE.	AMOUNT OF MONEY DUE.
A. Schlamens, } H. Holtz, } S. H. Frank, } H. Heyer, }	Free school } at } N. Braunfels } Comaltown. }	181 114 poor 295 in all 25	25904 14529½ 2293½ 1394½	\$789 00
J. Dietrich,	Comal Creek.	19 poor 35	2777	\$100 00
W. H. Henk,	Warvespring.	7 poor 23	847½ 1351	54 00
J. Moegle.	{ Smithsen's Valley.	6 poor 12 7 poor	463½ 885 380	13 50 28 00
Total,		429	50825½	\$984 50

EL PASO COUNTY.

SIR :—As required by law, and agreeably to your instructions of 17th November last, as contained in your circular of that date, I proceed to give you an official statement of the present situation of our public schools.

This county is divided into four districts, one in each precinct.

We have labored under great difficulties in procuring English teachers, who understood the Spanish language, and in overcoming the strong national prejudice still existing against our school ; and having an almost exclusively Mexican population, the law has been rather a detriment than advantage to us.

During the year, however, we have succeeded in overcoming in some small degree, these difficulties, and at present our four schools contain some one hundred and two pupils, having increased since their establishment from about twelve scholars. I hope next year you will be in receipt of a more promising report.

H. L. DEXTER,
Chief Justice.

FAYETTE COUNTY.

Up to the first of January, of this year, no distribution had been made of the school fund, which had accumulated to the amount of over four thousand dollars. On that day the Court, after mature deliberation, consulting the interest of teachers, as also the benefits to the children, concluded to make two divisions of the fund; the first distribution to take place on the first Monday in July, and the second on the first Monday in January next. Circulars were issued to that effect, the requisite number of copies of the law were published in hand-bill form, and also the form of tabular statements for teachers. On the day appointed, viz: first Monday in July last, the Board met, and, after full examination of the teachers' reports, approved and ordered drafts to be issued, in favor of the teachers, for the respective amounts due them.

The following will show the number of schools, &c.

Total number of schools reported,	22		
" " " indigent ch'n reported,	70	am't, \$524 50	
" " distribution,	479	" 1,648 50	

Schools, 22	pupils, 549	\$2,173 00
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This sum paid out leaves a remainder in the hands of the County Treasurer of one thousand nine hundred and sixty dollars and twenty cents, to be distributed in January next in addition to the sum to be received for this year's enumeration, which is reported to us by the assessor and collector as being for one thousand four hundred and fifty-seven children of scholastic age; or it may be, that inasmuch as the present mode of a semi-annual distribution meets with general favor, this system of distribution may be followed up. It will be perceived that we have, in some respects, acted differently from the mode pointed out, but we deemed our case a rather singular one:

nothing had been done with any part of the fund ; no attention had been given to the previous laws on the subject, and in view of the premises, and having, as we construed your instructions, a discretionary power, we acted to our best judgment, and have every reason to believe, given general satisfaction. * * * *

Should not the law be so amended as to avoid dispute, in reference to children, not enumerated in the county, being deprived of their distributive share, in any other county, than that in which they are enumerated. With this exception the system works well and I have no just cause of complaint.

In conclusion permit me to add, that did the Constitution permit, much good to the cause of education might be had, by authorizing the County Court to sell on long credit, of say ten years, with interest, the public school lands. The present amount held by the county, now all lying idle, (for it is folly to talk of leasing it,) would realize in the neighborhood of thirty-four thousand dollars. The interest of which in addition to the present funds received from the State, would go far to afford a primary education to every child in the county ; and also strengthen our population, increase its wealth, add to its taxes, and be doing simple justice to those who assisted in earning the same.

Very Respectfully, &c.,

CHARLES S. LONGCOPE,
Chief Justice.

GILLESPIE COUNTY.

DEAR SIR :—According to section ten of the act of August, 1856, the undersigned, in behalf of the County Court of Gillespie county, makes the following report. The reports made up to this date by the teachers of the several schools of this county, show that, during the last year, there were seven schools in operation.

In the enclosed tabular statement, I give the number of children sent to each school, the length of time taught in each school, the number of school patrons, and the whole number of days tuition in each school.

The fund received last year by this county is divided under the District System, all the district schools having complied with the law, leaving no money whatever in the hands of the County Treasurer.

*TABULAR STATEMENT, TO THE SUPERINTEND-
ENT OF SCHOOLS, FROM GILLESPIE COUNTY.*

SCHOOLS.	NUMBER OF CHILDREN.	DURING WHICH PERIOD THE SCHOOL WAS TAUGHT.	NUMBER OF SCHOOL PATRONS.	WHOLE NUMBER OF DAYS TUITION.
Mt. Pleasant school-house,	18	From Oct. 30, 1856, to last Feb., 1857.	6	1,145
Sandy Creek.				
School-house, Grape Creek.	22	Five months.	15	725
School on Cher ry's Spring.	11	From Sept. 5, 1856, to July 8, 1857.	6	909
School at Fred ericksburg.	48	From Sept. 1, 1856, to Aug. 31, 1857.	28	5,773
School at Fred ericksburg.	80	From Sept. 1, 1856, to Aug. 31, 1857.	56	11,261
School at Live Oak Creek.	62	From Sept. 1, 1856, to Aug. 31, 1857.	39	9,506
School at Fred ericksburg.	22	From Sept. 1, 1856, to Aug. 31, 1857.	18	876

W. WAHRMUND,
Chief Justice.

FREDERICKSBURG, October 1, 1857.

GILLESPIE COUNTY, (SUPPLEMENTARY REPORT.)

JAMES H. RAYMOND,

Treasurer of the State of Texas :

SIR :—I deem it necessary to draw your attention to several deficiencies in the School Law of 29th August, 1856. In conformity to the law of 1854, there were built in this County six school houses ; some at considerable expense. It is now a question as to whose is the right to occupy and the duty to

superintend these houses, as the law of '56 has done away with School Trustees. It is highly necessary that this matter should be provided for by legislative enactment. Those who contributed to the building of these houses, contend that they are equally entitled to the occupation and use of them. Your advice on this matter would be thankfully received. The majority of the inhabitants of this County would much prefer the law of 1854 to that of 1856, unless the latter be considerably changed and amended. By this latter law, the inhabitants of villages and towns are favored to the disadvantage of farmers and others scattered in the country, as the latter cannot send their children to school regularly, while the former may send theirs daily throughout the year. As the money is distributed in proportion to the time a school has been taught, it is obvious that those living in the country, labor under a great disadvantage, and there is no doubt that the law of 1854 was a more just law than that of 1856. Under the last law, any number of insolvents and widows may employ a teacher at any salary, and the County Court would be obliged to pay the same in preference to other claims of a similar nature. In this also, the law of 1854 was more just, as it excluded such extravagance, and yet provided for the payment of the schooling of children of insolvents and widows. Much more might be said of the inefficiency of the law of 1856, but its inadequacy is so well known that it would be superfluous.

W. WAARMUND,
Chief Justice of Gillespie County.

GOLIAD COUNTY.

Annual Report of the number of Schools taught in Goliad County and returned to this Office; the number of children to each; and the disposition of the Fund made up to the 1st day of September, A. D. 1857:

The Schools taught by G. W. McClanahan, in the town of Goliad numbered forty-nine pupils—ten of that number have been returned by the said teacher, as indigent and unable to pay their tuition.

The County Court appropriated the sum of one hundred and twenty-one dollars and eighty cents, \$121 80, to the payment of the same.

The Schools taught by George Rivers, numbered ten pupils, two of which were reported as indigent and unable to pay. The Court appropriated the sum of eleven dollars and twenty cents to the payment of the same. These schools have been taught in strict compliance with the provisions of the law. There have been several other schools taught in the County, but not reported to this Office ; therefore, unable to say anything as to the number of children taught within the County for the last year. The County Court of Goliad have adopted the policy of distributing the School Fund only to such as are unable to pay their own tuition, and placing the excess of the annual apportionments at interest, thereby making a substantial School Fund of the apportionments, together with the amount that has accumulated in the Treasury for the past three years.

WM. N. FANT,
Chief Justice.

HOPKINS COUNTY.

Report showing the true condition of the Schools in Hopkins County under the present School Law. Showing the number of scholars taught, and number of days to each Teacher.

NAMES OF TEACHERS.	NO. OF STUDENTS.	NAMES OF TEACHERS.	NO. OF STUDENTS.
John W. Drunner,	32	G. H. Vansel,	19
James L. Chapman,	19	Samuel Gee,	16
H. M. George,	28	J. D. Abney,	31
J. R. Hooten,	66	H. M. George,	30
Sylvanus Walker,	39	W. P. Petty,	33
G. S. Manning,	47	S. J. Neal,	22
J. M. White,	29	J. G. Mahaffey,	25
W. A. Davis,	17	J. D. Abney,	16
W. D. Byrd,	24	Simon McCurton,	12
Charles J. Philips,	33	Harriet T. Turner,	13
Sam'l G. Tomlinson,	49	W. T. Vader.	44
Mathias Ward,	62		
		Total	706

Amount of insolvency of patrons of Schools unable
to pay Teachers, &c., - - - - \$155.17

Amount disbursed,	-	-	-	\$155.17
Amount paid to different Teachers,	-	-	-	\$2,393.47
				\$2,548.64

A. G. MELTON,
Chief Justice.

JOHNSON COUNTY.

Hon. JAMES H. RAYMOND,

Treasurer of the State of Texas:

SIR—At a called term of the County Court of Johnson county, on the 14th day of September, 1857, the Court proceeded to examine the tabular statements of the various teachers of free schools in said county, and to apportion the School Fund as follows:

It appearing that there had been 18,978½ days taught, the court allowed 7 cents per day, making the amount of \$1,328 49½ paid, leaving in the Treasury the sum of \$8 50.

G. R. SHANNON,
Chief Justice Johnson County.

LIMESTONE COUNTY.

Statement of the distribution of the School Fund for said county under the provisions of "An act providing for the support of Schools," approved Aug. 29, 1856.

To amount received under act of January 31st	Dr.
1854, for years 1854-'5 and 6,	\$2,295 00
By amount disbursed under act of	
January 31, 1854, as follows:	Cr.
To J. R. Burrow,	\$66 32
To Alex'r Hyden,	58 35
Balance on hand,	2,171 13—\$2,295 00
1856. Amount paid Commission-	
ers to County Treasurer,	\$68 70
" Amt. paid indigent chil-	
dren,	93 18
	\$161 88

PAID AND DISTRIBUTED AMONG THE FOLLOW-
ING THIRTEEN TEACHERS, TO-WIT:

NAMES OF TEACHERS.	NO. STUDENTS.	NO. OF DAYS	AMOUNT PAID INDIGENTS.	NO. INDIGENTS	AMOUNT PAID
J. W. Allen, -	13	793			\$62 45
K. Thrasher, (1st session,)	33	1,882			148 21
" 2d "	24	932			73 39
P. A. Galbreath, -	42	1,853			145 92
J. A. McKissick, -	18	1,129			88 91
Joseph Nally, -	24	2,070	15 00	4	163 01
A. McKinney, -	83	7,540			593 77
A. P. Banks, -	29	1,293			101 82
T. V. W. Bowden, -	24	1,210	9 30	2	95 29
W. H. Mitchell, -	31	1,588	39 30	14	125 05
W. J. Bowden, -	34	2,607	24 70	4	205 30
J. Holloway, -	28	1,281	4 35	2	100 88
J. M. Edwards, -	33	1,346			106 00
	416	5,524	\$93 25	26	\$2,171 88

A. G. Woods,
Chief Justice.

MATAGORDA COUNTY.

J. H. RAYMOND:

Dear Sir—The circular issued by you is at hand; since its reception and apportionment of School Fund due this county, the County Court has not met so as to distribute it.

We have had two schools in this town that have filed returns asking for the appropriation of the money, and I am of opinion that the whole fund will be necessary to pay the tuition of those scholars provided for under the latter part of section 7th, of article 29th, August 1856.

M. TALBOT,
Chief Justice Matagorda County.

ORANGE COUNTY.

This report shows the number of indigents taught to have been twenty-six, (26,) for whose tuition was paid the sum of - - - - - \$163 80

In addition to which the pro-rata due to fifty-nine children taught, (in the aggregate,) 4,828 days was paid, amounting to the sum of - - - - - 167 28

Making a total of - - - - - \$331 08

This report further states that there were no other schools than those among which the distribution was made, represented at the time.

[Signed]

ALEXANDER DAVIS,
Chief Justice Orange County.

POLK COUNTY.

Report of the County Court of Polk county of the number of Schools and the number of Children.

Number of schools taught to September 1857,	-	10
No. children, including indigent, attending same,	-	232
No. of days the several children attended school,	-	14,249

Indigent Children.

No. sent to S. T. Robb,	9	Amt. of tuition,	\$132 25
" Jno. C. Rollins,	14	"	38 00
" G. D. Montgo-			
mery,	5	"	24 50
			\$194 75

WM. McCORMICK,
Chief Justice.

SMITH COUNTY.

Number of schools taught in the county,	-	22
" children attending school,	-	1,040
" days attendance,	-	58,287
" indigent children taught,	-	153
Amt paid for tuition of indigent children,	-	\$1,033 62

The court would recommend that some shorter and more

simple method be suggested to the Legislature, so that the commonality of the people may understand the workings of the law; that some day be appointed for the distribution of the fund, which would save much trouble. We would also recommend that the school law be so amended as that only the poorer class be the beneficiaries of the State bounty.

GEORGE L. ELLIS,
Chief Justice.

TRAVIS COUNTY.

The undersigned, members of the County Court of Travis county, having met in Austin on this day, for the purpose of receiving and acting upon the reports of the various Teachers in the county aforesaid, ending on the 1st instant, and for the purpose of distributing the School Fund according to law, beg leave to report :

That there have been taught in the county, for the year ending 1st September, 1857, fifteen public schools, which have been attended by six hundred and fifty one scholars in the aggregate, total number of days of tuition of same being fifty-one thousand five hundred and forty-two; of these children, one hundred and nineteen were children of patrons who were unable to pay tuition, and attended school seven thousand five hundred and five days altogether; the tuition for which, paid in full out of school fund, was one thousand and ninety-nine dollars and seventy-two cents, leaving five hundred and thirty-two whose parents were able to pay, and who attended school forty-three thousand six hundred and thirty-seven days, to whom was distributed the balance of the School Fund, amounting to five hundred and ninety-nine dollars and four cents, being a pro rata of one cent and 37-100 for each day's tuition of each scholar.

So far as making suggestions relative to the working of the School Law goes, we have to remark, that we do not know of any alteration of the present law in reference to indigent children, or children of parents who are unable to pay, that would be advisable. The present law appears to be well calculated to induce all such to attend school who are near enough for that purpose; but in reference to the law which requires the residue of the School Fund to be distributed pro rata, for the teaching of those who are able to pay, we are not so well

satisfied. Its operation at present is simply to give the amount, whatever it may be, as a bonus to the several teachers who may teach school in the county; the amount accruing to each child being so small that the parent of the scholar will not in one case in ten require any account to be made of it by his teacher in his settlement with him, and consequently it does not act either as a stimulant to sending children to school, who would go as well without it, nor is it any assistance to the parent in settling his tuition bill. Taking this view of the matter, we would recommend a change of the present law, so as to reserve to the State the whole of this residue, which is now distributed pro rata, to be added to the general school fund, or else to give to the several County Courts entire control of it, to be used in such manner as they may think best to advance the interests of education in their several counties among those who, from whatever cause, may not be able to attend school, even with the advantages of the present law in favor of the indigent. The objects to which it probably would be applied would be the purchase of books for such as have no means to get them, and for the partial pay of board of such indigent children as lived so far from any school as to be unable to attend it in any other manner than that of being boarded out.

It would perhaps, too, be as well for the Legislature to fix the amount to be paid to the various teachers in the State for the tuition of such indigent scholars as may be taught by them, in order that there might be uniformity in the prices charged. The practice pursued at present is, for each teacher to charge his usual tuition prices, which is almost, if not quite, double with some what it is with others.

JOHN B. COSTA,
Chief Justice.

VICTORIA COUNTY.

At the August term of the County Court, held in and for the county of Victoria, the subject of public schools was taken up, and after due examination we have to state, that for want of full and complete reports or statements from the schools in the county, we are unable to report in full, or beyond the matter of indigent scholars; but four schools have reported to this Court, and in consequence we have not

been able to make distribution beyond provision for the indigent children.

Four schools have reported 114 indigent scholars, for whom we have paid out of the fund on hand the sum of seven hundred and thirty-nine 27-100 dollars.

WM. RAGLAND,
Chief Justice.

VAN ZANDT COTNTY.

Number of schools taught, - - - - -	10
“ children attending school, - - - - -	227
Amount distributed, - - - - -	\$866 20 $\frac{1}{4}$
Number of indigent children, - - - - -	71
Amount paid for tuition of indigent children, -	\$204 81

We have proceeded to try to comply with the 10th section of the school law, but there are so many seeming contradictions and conflictions in the law and your instructions, and so many different opinions about it here, that I am not certain that this is what is required.

You will perceive that we have made two seperate lists—one showing the number of solvent, and the other the number of indigent children and the amounts of tuition due for each. In speaking of the requisitions of the 10th section of the law in your circular, you rehearse the language of the law and then remark, that you trust the courts will be particular in complying with the provision of the law making these reports up to the 1st of September of each year—the law requires the courts to make a report of the number of schools, the number of children, the disposition of the money, &c. In your suggestions as to the best course for employers to procure the services of teachers, you remark that they will require their pay, or a part of it before the close of the fiscal scholastic year, and that the funds cannot be divided until the end of the year, when all the tabular statements of teachers are in the hands of the County Courts—then, and not till then, will be known the amount going to each child, &c.—and then you require the reports to be made up to the 1st of September of each year. It seems to me impossible to comply with your requisitions and the requisitions of the law; however, I am disposed to do anything in my power to comply with the law, and to furnish you the wanted information.

You recommend that by patrons paying the teachers, and

taking his receipt in full for his services, thereupon would be entitled to draw from the county treasurer their pro rata share of the school fund, and then the fourth section of the law, in declaring the schools to be free public schools, closes thus: "Provided that no child whose entire tuition has been paid shall receive any money under the provisions of this section." I do not pretend to know what children it has reference to. Most people about here argue that if they pay the teacher and take his receipt it will debar them under the provisions of the fourth section from drawing any money under the provisions of the law. I cannot think so, although I am at a loss to know what the latter clause of the fourth section means, or what children it alludes to.

We have made a report of ten schools that have reported; there are 2 for 5 months, 2 for 4 months, and 2 for 3 months, that I am informed will be able to make their reports to the County Courts up to the 31st October, and according to my understanding of the law, they will be entitled to draw their pro rata of the school fund. Agreeable to the best information I can get, the entire tuition of them will amount to between six and seven hundred dollars. We have not made a distribution of the fund yet, and will not until the first Monday in November. We have put the amount of tuition down in our report to show you the demands. We have not put the indigent children separate with the view of complying with the requisitions of the seventh section of the law, but merely for your information, that you might see the number of indigent children and the amount they would draw, as their entire tuition has to be first paid.

I would like to know the intention of those reports, and in fact I will take it as a favor conferred, for any suggestions or information you may think proper to make or give.

J. B. HUBBARD,
Chief Justice.

WASHINGTON COUNTY.

According to the meagre reports handed in, about nine hundred children have attended school this year, the number of schools twenty-five, which gives an average of thirty-five students to each school; one hundred and fifty have been reported as indigent and their tuition paid in full by the county.

All of the money which accumulated from the dividend of 1854-'5 and '6, on account of Districts not organized, &c., the County Court turned over to the general, or indigent fund, consequently we have had a sufficiency to meet all indigent demands presented.

The Court has also established an uniform rate for indigent children, which is ten (10) cents per day. We found no uniformity in the charges of the teachers, and we thought justice required uniformity in the public beneficiaries.

The claims against the indigent fund will not quite consume our dividend for the present year, but the balance will be too small to go into a pro rata distribution.

I think if the poor can be equally benefitted, the best disposition which can be made of the school fund will be to pay it all out to them; and I think, from the present indications, in a short time the indigent claims will take up our dividends—the claims are increasing.

Notwithstanding I published a notice to teachers to hand in their reports immediately after the first of September, yet many of them delayed until within the last few days, and some have not handed in yet, and probably will not until the close of the scholastic year as established by the law of 1856, and I do not think that any rule which we might make, requiring them to hand in their reports at a given time, would bar them from their claims under the existing law; yet it is very harrassing to this office to have this matter allways on hand.

CLAUDIUS BUSTER,
Chief Justice.

WILLIAMSON COUNTY.

Report of the number of Schools taught, &c., in Williamson County, for 1856 and 1857, to-wit: from the passage of the School Law of 1856 to third Monday in August, 1857.

Number of schools taught,	-	-	-	-	13
“ scholars able to pay attending school,	-	-	-	-	316
“ “ unable to pay,	-	-	-	-	12
Total,	-	-	-	-	328
Amount paid for indigent scholars,	-	-	-	\$101	65
“ “ other class,	-	-	-	879	32½
“ to one school begun under the old law,	-	-	-	52	75
Total amount paid out from school fund,	-	-	-	\$1,033	72½

Pro rata per day for those scholars able to pay five cents.

Average length of schools about five and a half months.

There is an amount yet in the Treasurer's hands, (the amount not known,) which will be apportioned on the first Monday in January next. Said amount was held in reserve for the benefit of those schools which were not out on the third Monday in August, 1857.

FRANLIN JOHNSTON,
Chief Justice

EXHIBIT "A."

STATEMENT, showing the receipts and disbursements by the Treasurer, on account of School Fund, for the fiscal year ending October 31st, 1857.

BALANCE OF CASH IN TREASURY, OCTOBER 31st, 1856.				
In U. S. 5 per cent. bonds,		2,150,000	00	
In specie to Cr. of counties--balances for 1854 and 1855,	21,797	25		
do balance for 1856,	100,499	88		
In specie to Cr. of counties--contin- gent expenses acct. for 1856,	1,088	20		
In specie to Cr. of counties--conver- tible into U. S. bonds under 1st section of School Act of Aug. 29th, 1856, &c.,	3,033	11	126,418	44
RECEIPTS.				
In specie, to princi- pal of School Fund and convertible in- to U. S. bonds, &c.				
From one-tenth taxes prior to 1852,	1,105	51		
since 1852,	24,940	33		
From sale of land scrip and pre-emp- tion claims,	30,166	50		
From premium on 141 U. S. bonds loaned to H. & T. central railway Co. on 13th Ap., 1857,	8,460	00	64,672	34

EXHIBIT "A," *Continued.*

In specie, interest on U. S. bonds, from 1st July, 1856, to 1st July, 1857,—distributable to counties for 1857,				
On \$97,000 U. S. bonds transferred to School Fund from State acct. 29th Aug., 1856, from that date to 1st Jan., 1857,	1,630	14		
On \$2,053,000 U. S. bonds from 1st July, 1856, to Jan. 1st, 1857,	51,325	00		
On \$141,000 U. S. bonds loaned to H. & T. central railway Co. Ap. 13th, 1857, from 1st Jan., 1857, to date of loan,	2,017	08		
On \$2,009,000 U. S. bonds from Jan. 1st, 1857, to July 1st, 1857,	50,225	00	105,197	22
In specie, interest on U. S. bonds accru'd after Jul. 1st, 1857, upon 56 bonds loaned H. & T. Cent. R. R. Co. Oct. 28th, 1857, from 1st Jul., 1857, to date of loan, and distributable to counties in 1858,			914	48
				170,784

EXHIBIT "A," Continued.

TRANSFERS.

In U. S. bonds from
State acct. receiv'd
in exchange for
specie, convertible
of School Fund.

33,000 00

LOANS.

In 6 per cent. bonds
of Houston and
Texas central rail-
way Co., under pro-
visions of an "Act
to provide for the
investment of the
Special School
Fund, &c."

210,000 00

2,690,202 48

DISBURSEMENTS.

Amt of specie dis-
burs'd upon special
Treasury warrants
drawn on county
orders, for School
Fund of 1854, '55
and '56,

100,097 43

Amt of specie dis-
bursed on acct. of
contingent expen-
ses, 1856,

129 34 100,226 77

Amt of specie dis-
burs'd upon special
Treasury warrants
drawn on orders of
counties on acct of
patrons unable to
pay tuition, allow-
ed under 13th sec-
tion of School Law
of Jan. 31st, 1854,

5,898 28 106,125 05

EXHIBIT "A," Continued.

LOANS.				
Amt of U. S. bonds loaned to H. & T. central railway Co. upon the company's bonds for \$210,000, under provisions of "An Act to provide for the investment of the Special School Fund in the bonds of railway companies," to-wit:				
Loan of April 13th, 1857,	141,000.00			
Loan of Oct. 28th, '57	56,000.00	197,000.00		
Amt of specie paid on loan to H. & T. central railway Co. to make up the deficiency in U. S. bonds, on loans due the company upon these bonds, as follows:				
Loan of April 13th, 1857, bond \$150,000, deficiency,	9,000.00			
Loan of Oct. 28th, 1857, bond \$60,000, deficiency,	4,000.00	13,000.00		210,000.00
TRANSFERS.				
Amt of specie transferred to State acct for like amt in U. S. bonds, under 1st sect. of the School Act of Aug. 29th, 1856,				
				33,000.00

EXHIBIT "A," *Continued.*

BALANCE IN TREAS- URY, OCT. 31st, 1857.				
Principal of fund,				
In U. S. bonds,	1,986,000	00		
In bonds of Houston and Texas central railway Co.,	210,000	00	2,196,000	00
In specie :				
Due counties on dis- tribution for 1854, '55, and '56, .	21,381	90		
Due counties on dis- tribution for 1857,	105,026	79		
Reserved for contin- gent expenses, '57,	1,947	09		
Belonging to princi- pal of School Fund to be invested in U. S. bonds, under Act of Aug. 29th, 1856,	15,807	17		
From interest on U. S. bonds, accrued since 1st July, 1857, distributable to counties for '58,	914	48	145,077	43
			2,341,077	43
				2,690,202
				48

TREASURER'S OFFICE, Austin, October 31st, 1857.

JAS. H. RAYMOND,

Treasurer and Ex-Officio Superintendent of Schools.

EXHIBIT "B."

STATEMENT of the distribution of the School Fund for the year 1857.

COUNTIES.	NO. OF CHILDREN RETURNED FOR 1857.	AMOUNT DUE COUNTIES MAKING RETURNS FOR 1857.	NO. CHILDREN ES- TIM'D IN COUNT'S NOT MAKING RE- TURNS FOR 1857.	AMT SET ASIDE UNDER ESTIMATE FOR COUNTIES N'T MAKING RETURNS FOR 1857.
Anderson,	1,389	1,680 69		
Angelina,			380	459 69
Atascosa,	216	261 36		
Austin,	703	850 63		
Bandera,	53	64 13		
Bastrop,	1,011	1,223 31		
Bell,	843	1,020 03		
Bexar,	1,717	2,077 57		
Bosque,	205	248 05		
Bowie,	522	631 62		
Brazoria,	372	450 12		
Brazos,	339	410 19		
Brown,			100	121 00
Burleson,	865	1,046 65		
Burnet,	571	690 91		
Caldwell,	730	883 30		
Calhoun,	375	453 75		
Cameron,	1,129	1,366 09		
Cass,	1,274	1,541 54		
Cherokee,	2,519	3,047 99		
Collin,	1,355	1,639 55		
Colorado,	762	922 02		
Comal,	1,094	1,323 74		
Comanche,	156	188 76		
Cooke,	630	762 30		
Corryell,	627	758 67		
Dallas,	1,661	2,009 81		
Denton,	957	1,157 97		
DeWitt,	793	959 53		
Ellis,	701	848 21		

EXHIBIT "B," *Continued.*

COUNTIES.	NO. OF CHILDREN RETURNED FOR 1857.	AMOUNT DUE COUNTIES MAKING RETURNS FOR 1857.	NO. CHILDREN ES- TIM'D IN COUNT'S NOT MAKING RE- TURNS FOR 1857.	AMT SET ASIDE UNDER ESTIMATE FOR COUNTIES N'T MAKING RETURNS FOR 1857.
El Paso,	709	857 89		
Erath,	175	211 75		
Falls,	441	533 61		
Fannin,	1,605	1,942 05		
Fayette,	1,457	1,762 97		
Fort Bend,	385	465 85		
Freestone,	896	1,084 16		
Galveston,			625	756 25
Gillespie,	679	821 59		
Goliad,	388	469 48		
Gonzales,	1,018	1,231 78		
Grayson,	1,531	1,852 51		
Grimes,	853	1,032 13		
Guadalupe,	1,063	1,286 23		
Harris,	1,695	2,050 95		
Harrison,	1,609	1,946 89		
Hays,	319	385 99		
Henderson,	804	972 84		
Hidalgo,	281	340 01		
Hill,	474	573 54		
Hopkins,	1,700	2,057 00		
Houston,	1,127	1,363 67		
Hunt,	1,338	1,618 98		
Jack,			100	121 00
Jackson,	304	367 84		
Jasper,	560	677 60		
Jefferson,	375	453 75		
Johnson,	695	840 95		
Karnes,	391	473 11		
Kaufman,	672	813 12		
Kerr,	95	114 95		
Kinney,*				

* Not organized.

EXHIBIT "B," Continued.

COUNTIES.	NO. OF CHILDREN RETURNED FOR 1857.	AMOUNT DUE COUNTIES MAKING RETURNS FOR 1857.	NO. CHILDREN ES- TIM'D IN COUNT'S NOT MAKING RE- TURNS FOR 1857.	AMT SET ASIDE UNDER ESTIMATE FOR COUNTIES N'T MAKING RETURNS FOR 1857.
Lamar,	1,413	1,709 73		
Lampasas,	313	378 73		
Lavaca,	1,011	1,223 31		
Leon,	1,020	1,234 20		
Liberty,	612	740 52		
Limestone,	922	1,115 62		
Live Oak,	150	181 50		
Llano,	210	254 10		
McCulloch,*				
McLennan,	618	747 78		
Madison,	413	499 73		
Matagorda,	279	337 59		
Maverick,*				
Medina,	453	548 13		
Milam,	643	778 03		
Montgomery,	400	484 00		
Nacogdoches,	1,539	1,862 19		
Navarro,	840	1,016 40		
Newton,	588	711 48		
Nueces,			526	636 46
Orange,	211	255 31		
Palo Pinto,	149	180 29		
Panola,	1,363	1,576 63		
Parker,	935	1,131 35		
Polk,	497	601 37		
Presidio,*				
Red River,	1,200	1,452 00		
Refugio,	262	317 02		
Robertson,	575	695 75		
Rusk,	2,390	2,891 90		

* Not organized.

EXHIBIT "B," *Continued.*

COUNTIES.	NO. OF CHILDREN RETURNED FOR 1857.	AMOUNT DUE COUNTIES MAKING RETURNS FOR 1857.	NO. CHILDREN ES- TIM'D IN COUNT'S NOT MAKING RE- TURNS FOR 1857.	AMT SET ASIDE UNDER ESTIMATE FOR COUNTIES N'T MAKING RETURNS FOR 1857.
Sabine,	405	490 05		
San Augustine,	454	549 34		
San Patricio,	90	108 90		
San Saba,	204	246 34		
Shelby,	1,050	1,270 50		
Smith,	2,126	2,572 46		
Starr,	511	618 31		
Tarrant,	847	1,024 87		
Titus,	1,651	1,997 71		
Travis,	1,667	2,017 07		
Trinity,	284	343 64		
Tyler,	757	915 97		
Upshur,	1,794	2,170 74		
Uvalde,			117	141 57
Van Zandt,	817	988 57		
Victoria,	514	621 94		
Walker,	850	1,028 50		
Washington,	1,423	1,721 83		
Webb,			583	705 43
Wise,	370	447 70		
Wharton,	166	200 86		
Williamson,	904	1,093 84		
Wood,	1,080	1,306 80		
Young,			250	302 50
	84,118	101,782 78	2,681	3,244 01

TREASURER'S OFFICE, Austin, Oct. 31st, 1857.

JAS. H. RAYMOND,

Treasurer and Ex-Officio Superintendent of Schools.

EXHIBIT "C.

STATEMENT, exhibiting : 1st, The payments made to counties, under 12th and 13th sections of the School Act of January 31st, 1854. 2nd, The payments to counties from the distributions of School Fund for the years 1854, '55 and '56. 3rd, The balances due to counties for said years. 4th, The amounts placed to the credit of counties for the year 1857. 5th, The total amount standing to credit of counties on the 31st of October, 1857.

COUNTIES.	PAYM'TS MADE ON ACCT OF PATRONS UNABLE TO PAY, UNDER ACT OF JANUARY 1854.	PAYMENTS FROM DISTRIBUTION OF SCHOOL FUND FOR THE YEARS 1854, '55 & '56.	BALANCES DUE COUNTIES FOR THE YEARS 1854, '55 & '56.	AMOUNTS PLACED TO THE CREDIT OF COUNTIES FOR THE YEAR 1857.	TOTAL AMOUNTS TO CREDIT OF COUNTIES OCTOBER 31st, 1857.
Anderson,	164 20	1,334 46	938 83	1,680 69	1,680 69
Angelina,				459 80	1,398 63
Atascosa,				261 36	261 36
Austin,		1,273 74		850 63	850 63
Bandera,		63 48		64 13	64 13
Bastrop,		1,270 98		1,223 31	1,223 31
Bell,		1,073 64		1,020 03	1,020 03
Bexar,		2,573 70		2,077 57	2,077 57
Bosque,		325 86		248 05	248 05
Bowie,		702 42		631 62	631 62

Brazoria,	"	"	"		498 18		450 12	450 12
Brazos,	"	"	"		281 52		410 19	410 19
Brown,	"	"	"				121 00	121 00
Burleson,	"	"	"		1,043 28		1,046 65	1,046 65
Burnet,	"	"	"	124 98	658 26		690 91	690 91
Caldwell,	"	"	"	44 95	850 08		883 30	883 30
Calhoun,	"	"	"		63 45	378 15	453 75	831 90
Cameron,	"	"	"		1,226 82		1,366 09	1,366 09
Cass,	"	"	"	86 60	1,985 84		1,541 54	1,541 54
Cherokee,	"	"	"	203 31	3,176 76		3,047 99	3,047 99
Collin,	"	"	"		1,972 72	20 00	1,639 55	1,659 55
Colorado,	"	"	"			770 04	922 02	1,692 06
Comal,	"	"	"	163 20	1,134 36		1,323 74	1,323 74
Comanche,	"	"	"		95 22		188 76	188 76
Cooke,	"	"	"	12 23	652 74		762 30	762 30
Corryell,	"	"	"	26 50	672 06		758 67	758 67
Dallas,	"	"	"		1,883 70		2,009 81	2,009 81
Denton,	"	"	"		2,003 70		1,157 97	1,157 97
DeWitt,	"	"	"		632 04	687 00	959 53	1,646 53
Ellis,	"	"	"		709 32		848 21	848 21
El Paso,	"	"	"		1,920 00	21 18	857 89	879 07
Erath,	"	"	"			26 22	211 75	237 97
Falls,	"	"	"		489 90		533 61	533 61
Fannin,	"	"	"		200 00	4,163 66	1,942 05	6,105 71
Fayette,	"	"	"		1,776 06		1,762 97	1,762 97
Fort Bend,	"	"	"		896 14	262 94	465 85	728 79

EXHIBIT "C," Continued.

COUNTIES.	PAYM'TS MADE ON ACCT OF PATRONS UNABLE TO PAY, UNDER ACT OF JANUARY, 1854.	PAYMENTS FROM DISTRIBUTION OF SCHOOL FUND FOR THE YEARS 1854, '55 & '56.	BALANCES DUE COUNTIES FOR THE YEARS 1854, '55 & '56.	AMOUNTS PLACED TO THE CREDIT OF COUNTIES FOR THE YEAR 1857.	TOTAL AMOUNTS TO CREDIT OF COUNTIES OCTOBER 31st, 1857.
Freestone, - - - - -		985 32		1,084 16	1,084 16
Galveston, - - - - -			992 64	756 25	1,748 89
Gillespie, - - - - -	59 38	883 20		821 59	821 59
Goliad, - - - - -			1,072 08	469 48	1,541 56
Gonzales, - - - - -	348 51	1,540 08		1,231 78	1,231 78
Grayson, - - - - -	96 35	2,303 22		1,852 51	1,852 51
Grimes, - - - - -		885 71	183 79	1,032 13	1,215 92
Guadalupe, - - - - -	7 71	1,155 06		1,286 23	1,286 23
Harris, - - - - -		2,807 62		2,050 95	2,050 95
Harrison, - - - - -	1,506 26	1,672 56		1,946 89	1,946 89
Hays, - - - - -		698 40		385 99	385 99
Henderson, - - - - -		1,821 10		972 84	972 84
Hidalgo, - - - - -			707 50	340 01	1,047 51
Hill, - - - - -	41 92	583 74		573 54	573 54
Hopkins, - - - - -	150 00	1,872 66		2,057 00	2,057 00
Houston, - - - - -		1,266 84		1,363 67	1,363 67

Hunt,	-	-	-	1,210	26		1,618	98	1,618	98
Jack,	-	-	-				121	00	121	00
Jackson,	-	-	-		593	30	367	84	367	84
Jasper,	-	-	-		110	00	677	60	1,840	42
Jefferson,	-	-	-	28	70	1,080	453	75	453	75
Johnson,	-	-	-		707	94	840	95	840	95
Karnes,	-	-	-				473	11	1,084	15
Kaufman,	-	-	-		857	46	813	12	813	12
Kerr,	-	-	-				114	95	199	13
Kinney,*	-	-	-							
Lamar,	-	-	-	38	86	1,596	1,709	73	1,709	73
Lampasas,	-	-	-		307	74	378	73	378	73
Lavaca,	-	-	-		1,229	58	1,223	31	1,223	31
Leon,	-	-	-	195	99	1,851	1,234	20	1,234	20
Liberty,	-	-	-		607	20	740	52	740	52
Limestone,	-	-	-		983	94	1,115	62	1,115	62
Live Oak,	-	-	-				181	50	236	70
Llano,	-	-	-				254	10	254	10
McCulloch,*	-	-	-							
McLennan,	-	-	-		688	62	747	78	747	78
Madison,	-	-	-	123	50	449	499	73	499	73
Matagorda,	-	-	-		325	68	337	59	337	59
Maverick,*	-	-	-							

* Not organized.

EXHIBIT "C," Continued.

COUNTIES.	PAYM'TS MADE ON ACCT OF PATRONS UNABLE TO PAY, UNDER ACT OF JANUARY, 1854.	PAYMENTS FROM DISTRIBUTION OF SCHOOL FUND FOR THE YEARS 1854, '55 & '56.	BALANCES DUE COUNTIES FOR THE YEARS 1854, '55 & '56.	AMOUNTS PLACED TO THE CREDIT OF COUNTIES FOR THE YEAR 1857.	TOTAL AMOUNTS TO CREDIT OF COUNTIES OCTOBER 31st, 1857.
Medina, " " "	61 30	434 70		548 13	548 13
Milam, " " "		203 35	500 45	778 03	1,278 48
Montgomery, " " "		572 70		484 00	484 00
Nacogdoches, " " "		1,903 02		1,862 19	1,862 19
Navarro, " " "		1,146 78		1,016 40	1,016 40
Newton, " " "		1,597 48		711 48	711 48
Nueces, " " "	284 10	621 00		636 46	636 46
Orange, " " "			433 60	255 31	688 91
Palo Pinto, " " "				180 29	180 29
Panola, " " "		1,571 82		1,576 63	1,576 63
Parker, " " "		1,037 76		1,131 35	1,131 35
Polk, " " "	15 00	1,451 52		601 37	601 37
Presidio, *					

Red River,	-	-	-	41 37	1,072 26		1,452 00	1,452 00
Refugio,	-	-	-		306 36		317 02	317 02
Robertson,	-	-	-		633 42	885 04	695 75	1,580 79
Rusk,	-	-	-		2,736 54		2,891 90	2,891 90
Sabine,	-	-	-	379 20	542 34		490 05	490 05
San Augustine,	-	-	-		839 04		549 34	549 34
San Patricio,	-	-	-			314 18	108 90	423 08
San Saba,	-	-	-			194 58	246 84	441 42
Shelby,	-	-	-		1,286 16		1,270 50	1,270 50
Smith,	-	-	-	191 96	2,579 22		2,572 46	2,572 46
Starr,	-	-	-			1,467 70	618 31	2,086 01
Tarrant,	-	-	-		1,128 84		1,024 87	1,024 87
Titus,	-	-	-	194 93	1,933 38		1,997 71	1,997 71
Travis,	-	-	-	41 70	1,698 78		2,017 07	2,017 07
Trinity,	-	-	-		342 00	314 64	343 64	658 28
Tyler,	-	-	-			897 00	915 97	1,812 97
Upshur,	-	-	-	410 45	1,932 00		2,170 74	2,170 74
Uvalde,	-	-	-			138 00	141 57	279 57
Van Zandt,	-	-	-		1,310 48	903 30	988 57	1,891 87
Victoria,	-	-	-	40 10	611 34		621 94	621 94
Walker,	-	-	-		1,156 44	1,615 12	1,028 50	2,643 62
Washington,	-	-	-	815 02	1,879 56		1,721 83	1,721 83
Webb,	-	-	-		254 20	1,295 28	705 43	2,000 71
Wise,	-	-	-		332 94	30 00	447 70	477 70
Wharton,	-	-	-		175 26	255 74	200 86	456 60
Williamson,	-	-	-		1,335 84		1,093 84	1,093 84

EXHIBIT "C," *Continued.*

COUNTIES.	PAYM'TS MADE ON ACCT OF PATRONS UNABLE TO PAY, UNDER ACT OF JANUARY, 1854.	PAYMENTS FROM DISTRIBUTION OF SCHOOL FUND FOR THE YEARS 1854, '55 & '56.	BALANCES DUE COUNTIES FOR THE YEARS 1854, '55 & '56.	AMOUNTS PLACED TO THE CREDIT OF COUNTIES FOR THE YEAR 1857.	TOTAL AMOUNTS TO CREDIT OF COUNTIES OCTOBER 31st, 1857.
Wood, - - -		1,160 58		1,306 80	1,306 80
Young, - - -				302 50	302 50
	5,898 28	100,097 43	21,381 90	105,026 79	126,408 69

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TREASURER'S OFFICE, Austin, October 31st, 1857.

JAS. H. RAYMOND,

Treasurer and Ex-Officio Superintendent of Schools.